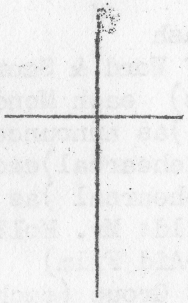
Feb 1975



THE

UNITED

REFORMED

CHURCH

THE MESSENGER

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ST. STEPHEN'S, Milnrow

&

LITTLEBOROUGH

Price

4p

ST. STEPHEN'S DIARY

February

Sun.	2nd	11.00 am.	Rev. A. Nash
		6.00 pm.	Service of Word & Sacrament
Mon.	3rd	5.45 pm.	Pre-Pilots) each Monday
		6.30 pm.	Pilots)as announced.
Tues.	4th	5.45 pm.	Recorder Rehearsal)each Tuesday
		6.15 pm.	Envoy's Rehearsal)as announced
		7.30 pm.	Ladies Guild: Mr. Hollows (A First-Aid Film)
Wed.	5th	2.00 pm.	Young Mums Group (each Wednesday)
		7.30 pm.	Efforts Committee Meeting
Fri.	7th		District Meeting
Sun.	9th	11.00 am.	Mr. S. Hazlehurst
		6.00 pm.	Mrs. M. Carnihan
Mon.	10th	7.45 pm.	Lay Preachers Fellowship at Milton U.R.C.
Wed.	12th	7.30 pm.	Elders Meeting
		7.30 pm.	Coffee Evening (Bring & Buy) organised by Young Mums
Sun.	16th	11.00 am.	Rev.A. Nash
		6.00 pm.	Special Evening Service
Tues.	18th	7.30 pm.	Coffee Evening & films (Slides of Greece) Presented by Mr. & Mrs.R.Gillon
Sat.	22nd		Lay Preachers Conference at Chorley
Sun.	23rd	11.00 am.)	Pulpit Exchange Sunday
		6.00 pm.)	
Fri.	28th	7.30 pm.	Choir Practice (Women's World Day of Prayer)

March

Sun.	2nd	11.00 am.	Rev.A. Nash
		6.00 pm.	Service of Word & Sacrament
Tues.	4th	7.30 pm.	Womens Guild: "Holy Land" Slides

FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE

Feb.	2nd	Mrs. F. Holland	Mrs. E. Prince
	9th	Mrs. F. Cooper	
	16th	Mrs. F. Butterworth	Mrs. R. Rothwell
	23rd	Mrs. Kenyon	
Mar.	2nd	Mrs. H. Buckley	Mrs. E. Smith

LITTLEBOROUGH DIARY

February

Sun.	2nd	10.30 am.	Mr. J. Lord
Wed.	5th	6.45 pm.	Pilots
Sun.	9th	10.30 am.	Rev. A. Nash
****		6.00 pm.	" (Communion)
Wed.	12th	6.45 pm.	Pilots
Sun.	16th	10.30 am.	Mrs. Nash
Mon.	17th	7.30 pm.	Junior Church Staff Meeting
Tues.	18th	7.30 pm.	Womens Guild: Birthday Supper
Wed.	19th	6.45 pm.	Pilots
Sun.	23rd	10.30 am.	Rev. A. Nash Communion)
Wed.	26th	6.45 pm.	Pilots
Thurs.	27	7.30 pm.	Mens Fellowship
Fri.	28th	7.30 pm.	Film Evening

****Please note: Fellowship following evening service

March

Sun. 2nd 10.30 am. Mr. J. Lord

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FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE

Feb. 2nd	Mrs. White
9th	Mrs. Greenwood
16th	Mrs. Mills
23rd	Mrs. Wall
Mar. 2nd	Mrs. E. Jackson

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COLLECTIONS

	Cash	Envelopes
Dec. 8th	£5.69	£16.30
15th	£2.66	£ 8.35
22nd	£8.35	£17.95
25th	£2.01	(Christian Aid)
29th	£1.61½	£10.92½

Contents of CWM. Boxes in December - £20.75

THANK YOU!

From the Manse

February 1975

My dear friends,

Early in this month comes Shrove Tuesday, and already I hear of some who are looking forward to eating pancakes. Immediately after Shrove Tuesday comes lent, a special time in the Christmas year, when we take a fresh look at the quality of our way of life.

Travelling by train one day we stopped at a station and there on a hoarding was a large poster advertising a seaside resort. The lovely golden sands stretched away until they merged into a distant headland. What puzzled me, however, was that as far as I knew, the place had not a single grain of sand on the beach but only a vast number of pebbles. After a few moments I gave up trying to solve the mystery and looked at the next advertisement. This was put out by a well-known Assurance Company and read, "Re-assessment means considering anew where you have placed your savings."

There came a day when some men put a test question to Jesus. They asked whether it was right to pay taxes to Ceasar, or not. The purpose of the question was to trap Jesus into supporting one side and thereby offending the other. He, however, lifted the whole situation to a higher level by commanding them to give to Ceasar those things which might be called his, and to give to God those things which were His.

Lent is a time of re-assessment. A time for looking at life and seeing how much is given over to the claims of the world and how much to God. "Given to God" in this sense means how much we value God and what part He is allowed to have in our life.

The train pulled out. I knew that the lovely, golden sands did not exist where the poster implied they were. I knew also, and so do you, that the riches of life are found with God. He can and will give them to those who value them sufficiently to seek them.

May God bless you all.

Your sincere friend,

ALFRED NASH

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THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

"Lay up for yourself treasure in heaven..... for where your treasure is there will your heart be also."

Matthew 6: 20- 21.

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IN MEMORIAM

Mr. GEORGE EDMUND BROWN of 62 Kingsland Road, Rochdale, aged 78 years.

Rev. A. Nash conducted the service at the home and at Rochdale Crematorium.

Our condolences go to Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Clarence (his daughter), and to all the family.

****

CONGRATULATIONS .....

To: Rev. & Mrs. B. Rawling on the birth of a daughter on the 5th January. LOUISE HELEN weighed in at 9 lb. 3 oz.

to: Mrs. C.E. Hoyle who will be 80 on February 9th. We send our warmest greetings to Mrs. Hoyle, who has been a patient at Breeze Hill Nursing Home for the last 4 months.

and to: Mrs. Annie Priestly of Victoria Street, who will be 80 on the 16th February.

"THE CROSS & THE SWITCHBLADE".....
....."THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS".....
....."CHRIST'S WITCHDOCTOR".....

The above are some of the titles now available for loan from our new BOOK TABLE in the porch at St. Stephen's. The various books are available on a library principle and all you are required to do is put your name, book title and date on the list provided. We have made a start with 12 books and intend to add to these from time to time. Mrs. Mildred Howarth is in charge of the scheme.

School in the rain is wet, damp -
Not dry at all.
Very dull faces in the rain -
Not at all happy.
The day is sad,
A very dull day -
Not at all pleasant.
Boys want to play football.
But all that Miss says
Not today. it's wet
I'm sorry
Then all of a sudden
The sun shines.

by Gillian Rothwell
(age 9 yrs)

COFFEE! COFFEE!.....
The following COFFEE EVENINGS have been arranged:

Wed. Feb. 12th (by YOUNG MUMS).....
with Bring & Buy & 'Natter'
From 7.30 pm. Admission 10p.

Tues. " 18th (by WOMENS GUILD).....
with 'Slides of Greece'
shown by Mr. & Mrs. R. Gillon
At 7.30 pm. Admission 10p

A.G.M. of the L.G.

The A.G.M. of the Ladies Guild at St.Stephens was a happy occasion with some 43 ladies attending, Mrs. Maud Nash, the President, in opening, reminded us that, whatever happens and whatever evil is apparent in the world, God is working still, both in the world as a whole and in the lives of individuals. Our slogan for this year is to be:

LOOKING UNTO JESUS,
THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH.

Thanks were expressed to Mrs. C. Clough who has served us faithfully and well for five years as Secretary. Her successor in this tricky job is Mrs. John Kay. Other Guild Officers from last year were re-elected and thanked for their work.

The "Getting To Know You" personality was the highly articulate Mrs. Pauline Royle who gave an interesting 5 minute talk followed by 25 minutes facinating explanation. Mrs. A. Baines, Mrs.D. Emmott and Mrs. M. Howarth then presented a few musical items.

We still have room for more members if anyone cares to join us. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday February 4th when Mr. Hollows will give us a First Aid Talk and Film.

*

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

On Friday, March 7th we shall be joining with friends from other denominations to share in the world-wide Women's Day of Prayer.

We shall meet in St. Stephen's at 2.pm. and also at 7.30 pm. The theme for the year is "Become Perfectly One," and the service has been composed by women from various Orthodox, Protestant and Catholic Churches in Egypt. It is wonderful to know that women all the world over will share the same service on the same day.

An invitation is given for all women, young and old to book March 7th and come along to one or both of the services mentioned above.

CHURCH MEETINGS

Hitherto these have been bi-monthly gatherings for those who like going to meetings, but the A.G.M. decided to change all that. Those who like meetings can rejoice in the fact that they are now to be held every month; those who don't can be thankful that from now on business will be conducted faster so that we have time for a film or a visiting speaker.

The first of these new style gatherings will be on WEDNESDAY, 26th FEBRUARY at 7.30 pm.

FROM MESSENGER TO ENVOY

The Envoys made a good beginning to 1975 by introducing the Songs of Praise programme on the 19th January. We look forward to being able to hear them frequently and thank them for all the good work they have done so far.

For the benefit of those who wish to join this group on its way to stardom, rehearsals are usually held on Tuesday evenings at 6.15. Instrumentalists are particularly welcomed.

WHAT DO PILOTS DO?

To find the answer come along to St.Stephen's

on

Monday, 17th February
from 6.30 -8.0 pm.
when the Pilots present
AN OPEN EVENING

Church Members, Parents and Friends are cordially invited to pop in to the schoolroom at any time during the evening and see what goes on in a Pilot Company.

GUEST NIGHT AT ST. STEPHEN'S

on

Sunday February 16th at 6.pm.

Come yourself.....and

.....bring another.

Stay to Fellowship time in the schoolroom after the service.

20 Q "K-I" & H.V.

No, there is nothing wrong with the typewriter; the weird headline above simply summarises the programme for the Young Mums club for the month of February.

....."Twenty Questions" will be held on the 5th when Mrs. Janice Ineson will open proceedings.

.... On the 19th, Mrs. Nash will have you in stitches at the sponsored Knit-In on behalf of Church Funds.

..... Mrs. Joan Proctor, the Health Visitor, will give a talk about her work on the 26th. (This will provide a quick refresher course in baby care to any young mums who might happen to require it in the foreseeable future.)

A warm welcome awaits any ladies who wish to join us these Wednesday afternoon sessions starting at 2.00 pm. A Creche is provided.

Note: Regular attenders are reminded that there will be no meeting on the 12th, due to half-term holidays, and having to wipe pancakes off the kitchen ceiling.

LITTLEBOROUGH NEWS

YULE RECALL

We apologise for having given the impression last month that all Christmas activity was concentrated on Milnrow. A mild reprimand on this score has been received from our Littleborough correspondents who point out that they had to meet a deadline of 17th December even though they did not receive the magazine until 12th January. The Editor's side of the story is that it was a paucity of Littleborough news which obliged him to include Milnrow Christmas news to fill the pages. However, the following shows perfectly well that a lot of hard work was going on in Littleborough in mid-December.

....Church members and Pilots went to the newly opened Ferrand Lodge on Todmorden Road to sing carols for the residents. Lindsay Merrick was the accompanist on Wendy Law's Electronic Organ - which we took along with us "because there was no room for a piano at the lodge"

....This year we experimented by holding the traditional Carol Service in the morning rather than at night, and a large congregation joined heartily in the singing to the accompaniment of Mr. Arthur Clegg. The Primary children sang and mimed "The Rocking Carol" and Mary and Joseph were respectively played by Wendy Spinks and Martin Greenwood. The Pilots contributed with their own nativity play and sang "We Three Kings" and "Away in a Manger."

Rev. A. Nash officiated at this service and at our Christmas morning Candlelight Worship.

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PARTY TIME

..At the Women's Guild Christmas Party, Mr. Nash, the only male present, organised the games. The Three Follies provided an old time music hall entertainment and Mrs. Holt recited some Lancashire Dialect. Forty ladies enjoyed the usual gastronomic delights and Mrs. Wall organised the dancing. It's a fair bet that the Pilot Party on the 18th December was nearly as noisy.

..On the 28th December the Beginner's, Primary, Creche and one or two Juniors had their Christmas Party. In the eight hours of the party - which lasted from 3 pm., until 5 pm. - everything was suitably chaotic, hectic and riotous and nerve-racking for adults, whose only respite came in the short interval of devouring time.

We were pleased to have Diane with us on this occasion. Diane, who is a member of the creche, is recovering from a big operation, and, since it also happened to be her birthday, we sang "Happy Birthday" and she blew out the candles on her cake with a little assistance from her mum.

..The Junior Church Disco on January 3rd was a free and easy affair, organisdd by the Young People, themselves. The teachers kept out of the way in the kitchen serving crisps and drinks, and their entertainment was provided by the Rev. A. Nash and Mr. Simpson who were mending the geyser.

..Speaking of geysers, the Men's Fellowship had a chippy supper for their party. At today's prices that's really living it up.

With grateful hearts the past we own
The future, all to us unknown,
We to Thy guardian care commend.
Do Thou to all our wants attend.

STAMPS AND ADDRESSESS

The Ladies Guild "Invitation Night" was indeed, a happy occasion, for no less than three dozen ladies and gentlemen joined together to sing, pray, talk and listen.

There were three speakers who made different kinds of contributions. Mrs. Stott, the Guild Secretary, spoke both seriously and humourously; One of our Elders - Mr. Nairn, sang two Scottish songs, told a few funny stories, and ended with a few helpful words; The Church secretary, Mr. Simpson, told us something about the different stamps issued in 1974, including the Churchill Centenary series, the 200th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union, the 6p charity stamps and the new 7p definitive stamp. To all three speakers we extend our gratitude.

*

Ladies are reminded that our next meeting is on February 18th, when a "Knit-In" will take place. Some of the Pilots will be joining us on this occasion - presumably to help to "cast-off" if that's not too big a purller.

Proceeds will go towards Church decoration, so get your Sponsor Forms as soon as you can.

ACTS NOW

Last month's Sunday Evening Fellowship, held after evening service, went down well. After refreshments and a good sing, we had a quiz on the first ten chapters of the Acts of the Apostles, which soon showed who had done their homework for Mr. Fielden almost ran out of fingers counting for his side. Be warned that the quiz for the February fellowship will be on Acts 10-18.

UPSTAIRS AND DOWNSTAIRS

Lord of all pots and pans and things, since I've
no time to be
A Saint by doing lovely things or watching late
with thee
Of dreaming in the dawn light, of storing heaven's
gates,
Make me a saint by getting meals and washing up
the plates.
Although I must have martha's hands, I have a Mary
mind,
And when I black the boots and shoes, thy sandals
Lord, I find.
I think of how they trod the earth each time I
scrub the floor.
Accept this meditation, Lord, I haven't time for
more.
Warm all the kitchen with thy love and light it
with thy peace,
Forgive me all my worrying and make all grumbling
cease.
Thou who didnt love to give men food, in room or
by the sea
Accept this service that I do; I do it unto Thee.

(Written in July 1928 by a girl of 19
who was in domestic service.
Submitted by Mrs. Amy Stott)

TWO THOUGHTS

1. The more you recognise that life is hard
the easier it becomes.

2. A friend is someone who can see through
you and still appreciate the show.

CHURCH DUTIES - LITTLEBOROUGH

DOOR STEWARDS

Feb. 2nd	Mr. H.N. Hill	Mr. F. Ingham	
9th	Mr. F. Beattie	Mrs. E.Crossley	10.30
	Mr. E. Holt	Mrs. A. Stott	6.00
16th	Mr. J. Hill	Mr. J. Nairn	
23rd	Mr. J. Holt	Mr. J. Lord	
Mar. 2nd	Mr. H.N. Hill	Mr. F. Beattie	

ELDERS COMMUNION ROTA

Feb. 9th	Mr. F. Beattie	Mr. Nairn	6.00
23rd	Mr. Simpson	Mr. J. Lord	10.30

ORGANIST/PIANIST

	am.	pm.
Feb. 2nd	Mrs. M. Hill	
9th	Miss Lindsay Merrick	Mrs. M. Hill
16th	Mrs. E. Cockcroft	
23rd	Miss Lindsay Merrick	

FAMILY CHURCH COFFEE ROTA

Feb. 2nd	L. Butterworth	J. Hobbs
9th	W. Spinks	D. Mallinson
16th	A. Wall	P. Wall
23rd	B. Holt	A. Merrick
Mar. 2nd	W. Law	J. Law

Persons unable to take their appointments as listed are expected to find a suitable substitute.

FAMILY CHURCH READINGS

Feb. 2nd	"Familiarity bring disbelief" Mark 6: 1 - 6	P. Lightfoot
9th	"Freed from torment" Mark 5: 1 -20	M. Law
16th	"God is Lord" 1 Kings 18: 17-24	M.G.Hill
23rd	"Look and See" 2 Kings 6: 8 -17	M. Grindrod
Mar. 2nd		H. Vincent

CHURCH DUTIES - MILNROW

FAMILY CHURCH DOOR STEWARDS

Feb. 2nd	Mrs. P. Royle	Mrs. F. Rae
9th	Mrs. A. Baines	Mr. A. Bruckshaw
16th	Mr. G. Buckley	Mr. A. Rae
23rd	Mr. H. Mellor	Mrs. F. Butterworth
Mar. 2nd	Mr. D. Fursey	Mrs. J. Duffy

	ELDERS ROTA EVENING DOORSTEWARDS	DUTY ELDER	ORGANIST/PIANIST EVENING WORSHIP
Feb. 2	Miss M. Wood	Mr. J. Wild	Mr. D. Logan
9	Mr. R. Gillon	Mrs. N. Settle	Mrs. C. Hey
16	Mr. B. Clough	Mrs. E. Gillon	Mr. J. Emmott
23	Mr. K. Hey	Mrs. M. Howarth	Mrs. E. Starkie
Mar. 2	Mr. R. Gillon	Mrs. E. Gillon	Mr. D. Logan

COMMUNION ROTA

Feb. 2nd	Mr. J. Wild	Mr. B. Clough
Mar. 2nd	Mr. A. Roberts	Mr. J. Emmott

FAMILY CHURCH COFFEE ROTA

Feb. 2nd	Mr. C. Hey	Mrs. M. Mellor
9th	Mrs. J. Munday	Mrs. M. Ogden
16th	Mrs. J. Cudworth	Mrs. N. Settle
23rd	Mrs. E. Busill	Miss I. Tither
Mar. 2nd	Mrs. H. Buckley	Mrs. E. Smith

Persons unable to take their appointments as listed are expected to find a suitable substitute.

COLLECTIONS

	am	pm.	Envelopes	Total
Dec. 1st	8.25	1.97	21.27	31.49
8th	6.01	2.67	15.37	24.05
15th	5.78	3.04	20.72	29.54
22nd	6.18	11.44	17.19	34.81
29th	5.31	1.07	11.86	18.24
	£31.53	£20.19	£86.41	£138.13

Prayer meetings in connection with 'Outreach to Industry Campaign' will be held during February. Details from Rev.A. Nash.

MINISTER:

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The Manse,
196 Harbour Lane,
Milnrow.
Tel: ROCHDALE 50161

*

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Tel: ROCHDALE 42243

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Mr. F.G. Simpson,
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Littleborough.
Tel: 061 834 4402
(Business)

*

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*

HOSPITAL VISITORS:

MILNROW: Miss M. Wood
Mrs. A. Wood
Mrs. E. Starkie
Miss A. Memory
Mrs. N. Settle

*